The Canara Bank branches prepare a Branch Credit Plan each financial year. This plan specifically stipulates the amount to be disbursed to various activities under Sericulture.

The Corporation Bank has formulated Corp Kisan tie-up Scheme under which arrangements to farmers engaged in various activities including Sericulture are included.

The Syndicate bank also includes silk & silk industry in its SSI schemes and has advanced substantial amounts to this sector.

The Vijaya Bank ensures that the entire requirements of sericulture farmers & silk industry are met through various schemes of the bank, under agriculture or under SSI.

The State Bank of Mysore has a Special Plan for promotion of silk and silk industry for financing of mulberry cultivation etc.

Aid to farmers by banks in Karnataka

1379. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what role the five Public Sector banks based in Karnataka have played during the last three years to mitigate the hardships of farmers and village artisans who have consistently been affected by worst drought conditions in the State, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) the number of persons benefitted, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of obsolete medical equipments

1380. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of misuse of the ten year limit rule by importers of refurbished medical equipment wherein outdated equipment is being imported and released regularly from cargo terminal at Delhi, IGI Airport by the customs;

(b) whether there has been an upsurge in imports in cargo at IGI Airport of obsolete gastroscopes, colonoscopes and duodenoscopes through under invoicing and submission of fake chartered engineers certificates from the original shipper itself; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to verify the actual value and date of manufacture by cross checking with the authorized dealers of such companies for future imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Rural credit package

1381. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are looking forward to devise schemes to promote cultivation of cash crops with a rural credit package;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme;

(c) if not, whether Government while designing the scheme, would create a built-in-mechanism to address the disasters like drought, flood, earthquake, failure of crops due to pests and the inability of the farmers to repay the loans due to impaired earning;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has announced a package of measures on June 18, 2004 to double the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in the next three years. The benefits of the package announced are also available to farmers cultivating cash crops. The package also envisage the following relief measures to farmers:

1. Debt restructuring/rescheduleument and fresh loan to farmers affected by natural calamities;
2. One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers;